

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2024

**PO2610(A3): Introduction to International Relations I: Security, War and Peace – 3 (3-0-0) 45
Hours for 15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Ruth Lambert	PHONE:	780-539-2093
OFFICE:	E401E	E-MAIL:	tlambert@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This is an introduction to the study of international relations with a focus on armed conflict, the pursuit of peace and related military matters. Topics may include the causes of war, the Cold War, arms control, post-Cold War military challenges, terrorism, international organizations, international law, international responses to domestic armed conflicts and the direction of Canadian defense policy.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Complete 1 of the following

Completed the following:

PO1010 - Introduction to Political Studies, Ideas and Forms of Government (3)

Completed the following:

PO1020 - Introduction to Political Institutions, Processes and Problems (3)

Permission of the department

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

There is no required text to purchase for this course. All material will be available on myClass.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Be able to differentiate between different theories of international relations to assess current issues in world politics verbally and in writing
- Be able to identify and critically assess structural and political elements that influence international relations
- Be challenged to consider critical theories to understand how policies differently impact countries in different regions of the world
- Be able to critically evaluate international policies and practices and explain shifts over time
- Gain familiarity with international institutions and their role in world politics
- Communicate assessments of power, war, and issues in international relations verbally and in writing

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Assignment	Due date	Value
Test: key concepts (take home)	February 1, 2024	10%
Issue paper	February 16, 2024 (10pm)	15%
Research essay	March 15, 2024 (10pm)	30%
Presentation	Individually assigned	15%
Cumulative final exam	Scheduled by registrar	30%

- Detailed information for each assignment will be available on myClass and covered during lectures prior to the due date.
- The late penalty for assignments is 3% a day.
- Plagiarism, or submitting work which is not your own (including AI-generated work), will result in a grade of 0.
- In cases where submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions for the instructor about its creation and the student's intellectual effort involved, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate

in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked on page 4 in this outline) may be applied.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Please note that dates may be adjusted to accommodate discussion and student interests that results from engagement with the material. Assigned readings for each week are posted in myClass.

Class dates:	Topics:	Evaluations/Assignments:
January 9, 11	Introduction	
January 16, 18	Historical context	
January 23, 25	Actors in IR	
January 30, February 1	Theories in IR	Test: February 1, 2024
February 6, 8	Theories in IR II	
February 13, 15	Theories in IR III	Issue paper: February 16, 2024 (10pm)
February 20, 22	Winter break – no class	
February 27, 29	Human rights	
March 5, 7	Poverty and development	
March 12, 14	International conflict	Research essay: March 15, 2024 (10pm)
March 19, 21	Terrorism	Individually assigned presentations
March 26, 28	Migration and refugees	Individually assigned presentations
April 2, 4	Humanitarian intervention	Individually assigned presentations
April 9, 11	Student selected topic and review	

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Respectful participation: One of the key components of learning in political science is to engage with ideas that may differ from your own. Respectful dialogue with classmates is required. Expectations around participation will be covered during the first class and re-visited throughout the term as necessary. If you have any concerns about participation, please contact me by email or in-person.

Preparation: Please try to come to class prepared to engage with the material and ask questions or offer analysis on the topics we are discussing. You will get the most out of this class by reading the assigned text before Thursday and having thought about how the readings apply to current events. By engaging with the material and your classmates, you will demonstrate how information can be used to support arguments and explain outcomes.

Attendance: Try to attend class regularly. Lecture time is a time to prod at information, ask questions and develop information synthesis skills. We will also use lecture time to work through issues on assignments.

Assignment deadlines: In general, you are expected to submit your assignments on time as per the syllabus. It is your responsibility to manage your time to meet these deadlines. The deadlines ensure work is complete so I can provide feedback to help prepare you for the assignments that follow. However, if you are struggling to meet a deadline, please contact me to discuss an extension, *prior to the deadline*. Please note that extensions are not guaranteed.

Recording or photographing content is not allowed, unless permission has been granted by the instructor.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.